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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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November 28, 2000

BY HAND DELIVERY

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
12th Street Lobby B TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* Communication In the Matter of Review of the Commission's
Rules and Policies Affecting the Conversion to Digital Television
(MM Docket 00-39); and In the Matter of Carriage of the Transmissions of
Digital Television Broadcast Stations (MM Docket No. 98-120).

Dear Ms. Salas:

On Tuesday, November 28, 2000, Lawrence R. Sidman and Sara W. Morris of Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson & Hand, and David Arland of Thomson Consumer Electronics ("Thomson"), met with Susan Fox of the Mass Media Bureau to discuss issues in the above-referenced proceedings.

The discussion focused on the Commission's possible consideration of a proposal whereby television manufacturers – either as part of a voluntary effort or by FCC mandate – would incorporate DTV reception capability in all television receivers with screen sizes of certain dimensions by a date certain. This initiative apparently would be part of a package of measures to speed America's transition to DTV.

Thomson reiterated its commitment to facilitating a speedy and successful transition to DTV. However, assuming *arguendo* that the Commission possesses the legal authority to adopt a DTV reception mandate, Thomson believes that any DTV reception mandate could only succeed if it is considered as part of a global package. Such a global approach would resolve other important remaining obstacles to a successful and swift transition – particularly definitive resolution of the COFDM/8 VSB debate, final agreement on cable-DTV compatibility issues, including copy protection, PSIP carriage and man-machine interface specifications and steps that might be taken to ensure consumer access to a meaningful amount of HDTV programming.

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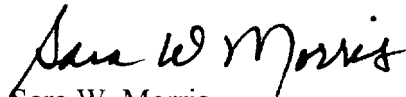
Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
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Thomson urged that the adoption of a DTV reception requirement *before* these other issues are resolved with certainty could impose substantial costs on consumers, in some instances doubling or even tripling the retail price of smaller screen receivers, while failing to provide commensurate value to consumers to justify the additional expense. Thomson also reiterated its positions as reflected in comments and reply comments filed in these proceedings.

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. §1.1206, an original and one copy of this letter, including attachments, are being filed with your office. Also, attached please find two charts distributed by Thomson at the meeting reflecting the market structure for television sales by screen size.

Please direct any questions concerning this matter to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara W. Morris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sara" and last name "Morris" being clearly legible.

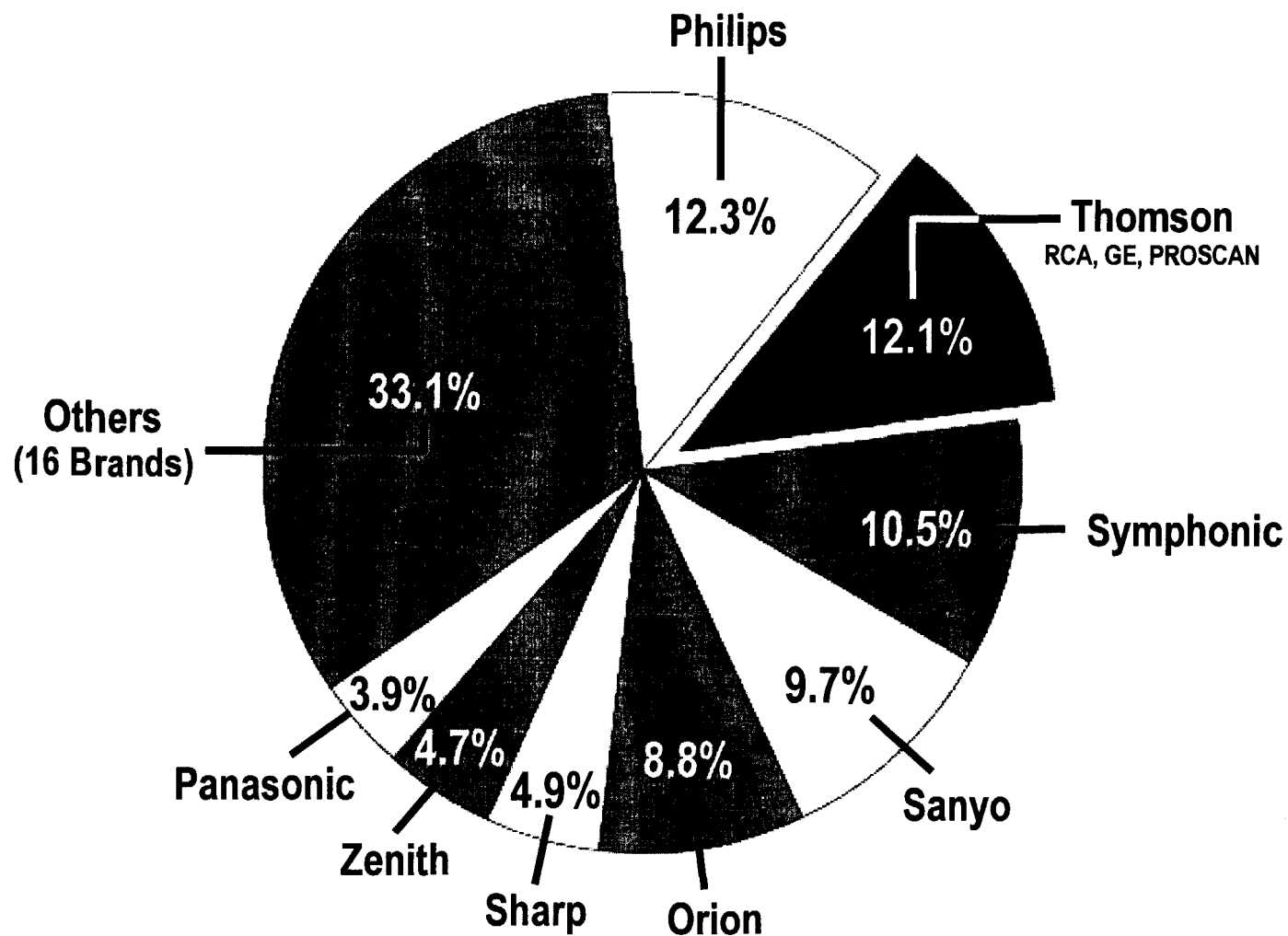
Sara W. Morris
Telecommunications Consultant

cc: Susan Fox

Attachments

Who Sells 20" and Below? – 1999

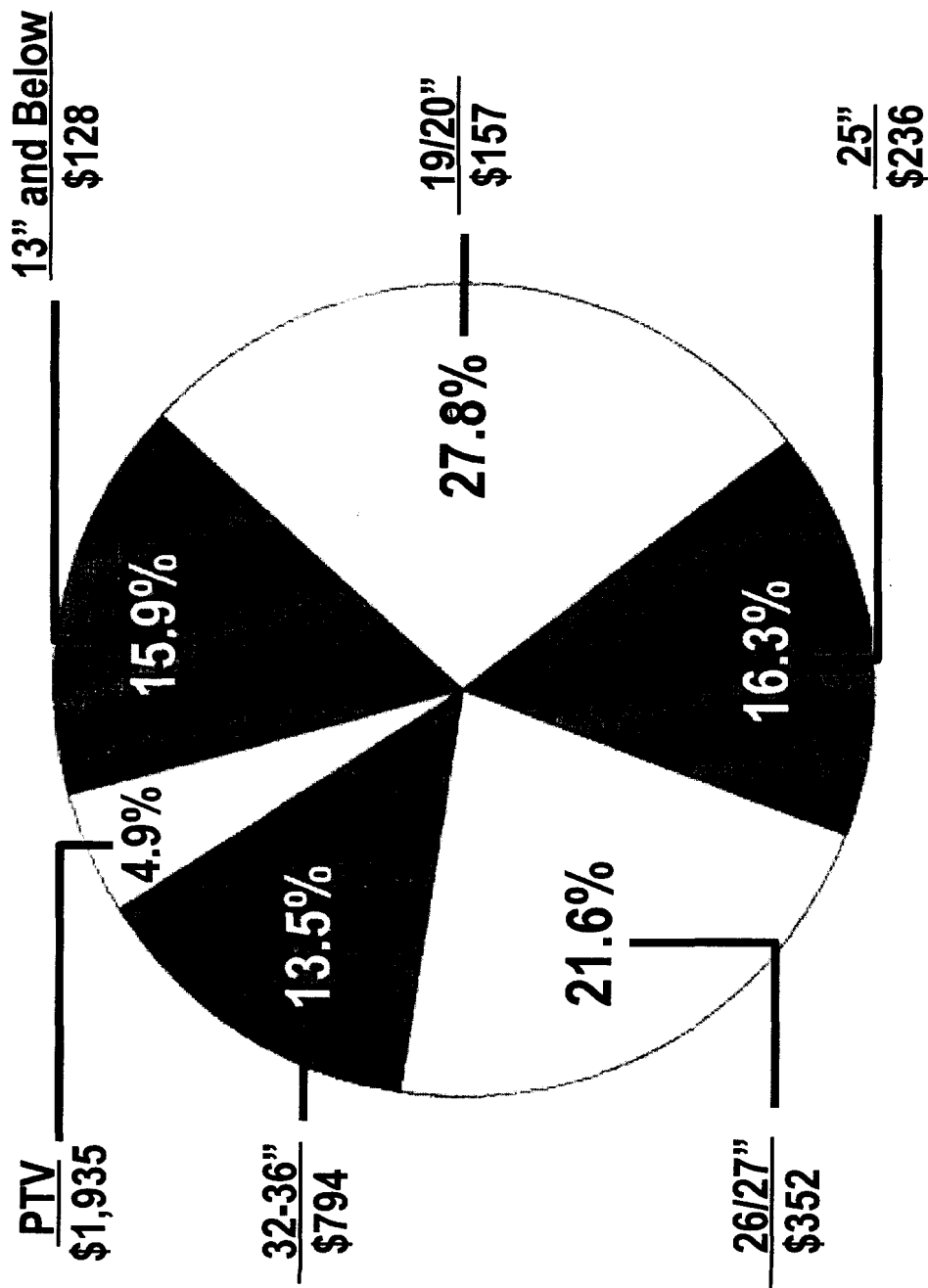
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THOMSON MULTI MEDIA

24.5 Million TV Sets Sold - 1999

REAL



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